

# CLARK COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGY EXHIBIT OPENS IN SPRINGFIELD, OHIO

by  
Robert W. Morris  
Emeritus Professor of Geology  
Wittenberg University  
Springfield, Ohio

On August 12, 2010 the Clark County Historical Society unveiled a permanent exhibit entitled "The Archaeology of Clark County" in the Heritage Center of Clark County, located at 117 South Fountain Avenue, Springfield, Ohio. This exhibit contains numerous artifacts, which for many years had been on display in the museum in Memorial Hall, the former home of the Clark County Historical Society. About 1985, Memorial Hall was closed and the collections were packed up and moved into storage. In 2001, the historic City Building in downtown Springfield, built in 1890, became the new home of the Clark County Historical Society and is now known as the Heritage Center. It has been developed into a spectacular museum with a major focus on the history and growth of Springfield and Clark County, as well as housing thousands of historical items in its collections. Some of the prehistoric Native American artifacts in the collection have been displayed each year during September and October especially for the benefit of local school classes, but these displays were only temporary. The new exhibit is a permanent feature and contains many of the most significant artifacts from the collection, including items from some of the mound sites in Clark County excavated and/or studied by Arthur Altick in the 1930's and 1940's.

This exhibit has been a long term goal of Virginia Weygandt, Director of Collections, Roger Sherrock, CEO, Dr. William Kinnison, President of the Board of Trustees, and other members of the staff and trustees of the CCHS. The exhibit itself consists of a bank of three interconnected, beautiful wooden display cases which have glass shelves and doors in the upper half (Figure 1). The lower portion of each case contains three sets of display drawers which can be pulled out to view the artifacts within. The entire exhibit was sponsored by and partially funded by The Ohio Humanities Council and the Springfield Foundation, as well as monies from the Clark County Historical Society. The exhibit is located on the second floor of the Heritage Center immediately adjacent to the Kinnison Theater where a short film on George Rogers Clark, the Shawnee Indians, and the Battle of Peckuwe on August 8, 1780, can be viewed.

## Preparation of the Exhibit

As one would expect, many hours of planning and preparation went into the development of this exhibit. Director of Collections, Virginia Weygandt supervised the project, along with other members of the exhibit committee: Roger Sherrock,

CEO; Ardath Dellapina, Director of Education and Programs; Kasey Eichensehr, Curator; Natalie Fritz, Curatorial Assistant; and Mel Glover, Curatorial Technician. All worked together on various aspects of the exhibit from initial planning to final assembly. Kasey is an expert on the preparation of labels and descriptive materials and developed the illustrative and narrative components. Natalie and Mel spent many hours carefully mounting and securing artifacts in place. Natalie also did preliminary and ongoing photography throughout the exhibits development.

In September 2003, I began as a volunteer at the Clark County Historical Society working on the prehistoric Native American artifacts in the collection. Since that time, I have logged about 1000 hours briefly identifying, describing, measuring, and numbering nearly the entire collection, including those items on display in this exhibit. It has been an enjoyable and rewarding experience and has allowed me to learn a great deal about the significant archaeological sites in Clark County and artifacts in the collection. Much of the information I have gathered has enabled me to prepare articles about archaeological sites in Clark County for publication in the *Ohio Archaeologist*.

## Highlights of the Exhibit

The major focus of this exhibit are the prehistoric artifacts, archaeological history and important sites of Clark County and the most important items from the collection are featured. From 1933 to 1947, Arthur Altick, a knowledgeable avocational archaeologist, was Secretary and Curator of the Clark County Historical Society. It was during this time period that many of the artifacts in the overall collection were acquired. Altick investigated some 44 prehistoric sites in Clark County, as well as compiling a map depicting many of the important sites and features in the county. In 1935, Altick mapped the prehistoric Campbell Mound Group and Earthworks, a significant Hopewell site, and did a detailed excavation of Campbell Mound No. 1 (see x-section in Figure 2). In 1939, Frank Boblett, under the tutelage of Altick, excavated a mound on his property and uncovered significant items which are on display (Figure 2). Altick also discovered what he believed were six additional mounds on Boblett's farm (Morris, 2004).

In 1940, Arthur Altick became aware that a hill, which was actually the National Road Mound in Harmony Township, was being leveled by George Manning, the property owner, in order to build a house.

Altick and a colleague went to the site and recorded as much information as possible concerning the details of the mound interior from what was left. They collected hundreds of shell beads and other artifacts from this important Hopewell site. This mound, named Manning Mound-1, was found to have contained some spectacular Hopewell items such as an 11 inch copper ax (celt), at least 9 smaller copper celts and adzes, and a copper breastplate (Figure 3). Also a large Ross barbed spear of obsidian, drilled bear canine teeth, imitation bear canine teeth fashioned of bone, and other items are on display (Figure 4). For more information on Manning Mound-1 see Morris (2004, 2006). Artifacts from the Shuey Mound, excavated by Altick in 1938, are also on display. Detailed information on the Shuey Mound can be found in Morris (2005).

In addition to Adena and Hopewell mound sites, portions of the new exhibit pertain to sites related to the Glacial Kame culture. One of these is Bull Hill in Harmony Township, studied by Altick in 1919 and reported to have contained seven disorganized burials (Figure 5). Another is the Tremont Hill site in German Township, partly excavated by Altick in 1932. A collection of assorted points, mainly Archaic, found near a spring on the Snyder farm in Clark County is also part of the exhibit.

A total of nine pull out drawers comprise the lower portion of the three cabinets. One drawer contains Hopewell cores, Flint Ridge lithic items and varieties of other common flint and chert. Another drawer (Figure 6) contains assorted Adena, Hopewell, Intrusive Mound and Ft. Ancient points, as well as a tubular pipe, undrilled expanded center gorget, and other items. A third drawer contains an assortment of Archaic point varieties. Stone tools dominate the remaining six drawers. One contains assorted examples of celts. Another exhibits an assortment of  $\frac{3}{4}$  grooved and full grooved axes, as well as adzes (Figure 7). Two drawers cover the full spectrum of hammerstones from ungrooved to  $\frac{3}{4}$  grooved to full grooved and also include an interesting maul. Two additional drawers focus on varieties of pestles ranging from bell pestles to conical pestles, knobbed pestles, cylindrical pestles and roller pestles. Several cupstones are also included.

The preceding discussion highlights the most significant portions of the exhibit; however, additional subjects are also featured. The Red Ocher burial accidentally uncovered in George Rogers Clark Park



in 1934 (Morris, 2005) is also discussed, as well as items recovered from trash middens as several sites. In this limited report it is impossible to do justice to the breadth and content of this exhibit. Excellent descriptive information helps the viewer understand much of what is on display. In summary, I would encourage anyone interested in prehistoric Indian cultures of Ohio and especially Clark County to visit the Heritage Center and view this new exhibit.

### Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Virginia Weygandt and Roger Sherrock for permission to write this article. All of the photographs used in this paper were taken by Natalie Fritz and I sincerely thank her for permitting me to use them.

### References

Morris, Robert W.

- 2004 The Manring Mound Site, Clark County, Ohio. *Ohio Archaeologist* 54 (1): 4-9.
- 2004 The Boblett Mounds, Clark County, Ohio. *Ohio Archaeologist* 54 (2): 26-29.
- 2005 The Shuey Mound, Clark County, Ohio. *Ohio Archaeologist* 55 (1): 38-41.
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Figure 1 (Morris)  
One of three display cases showing visible artifacts in the upper portion and three display drawers below. This photo and all others by Natalie Fritz.

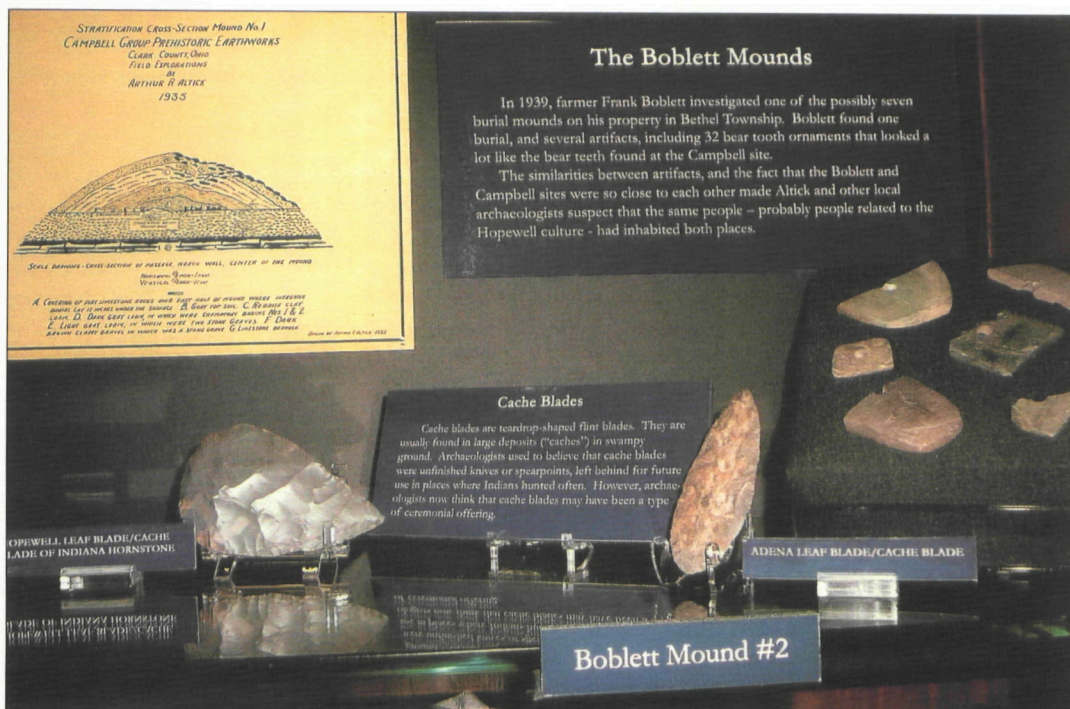


Figure 2 (Morris)  
Artifacts from Boblett Mound #2 and a cross-section of Campbell Mound #1.





Figure 3 (Morris) - Hopewell copper artifacts from Manning Mound-1 including a rectangular breastplate (left), 6 small celts and adzes, and the large 11 inch celt (right).



Figure 4 (Morris) - Hopewell artifacts from Manning Mound-1 including the Ross barbed obsidian spear point, shell beads, drilled bear, elk and other teeth, and imitation bear canine teeth of bone.



Figure 5 (Morris) - Artifacts from the Bull Hill and Tremont Hill Glacial Kame sites.



Figure 6 (Morris) - Pull out drawer exhibiting Adena, Hopewell, and Intrusive Mound points and other related items.

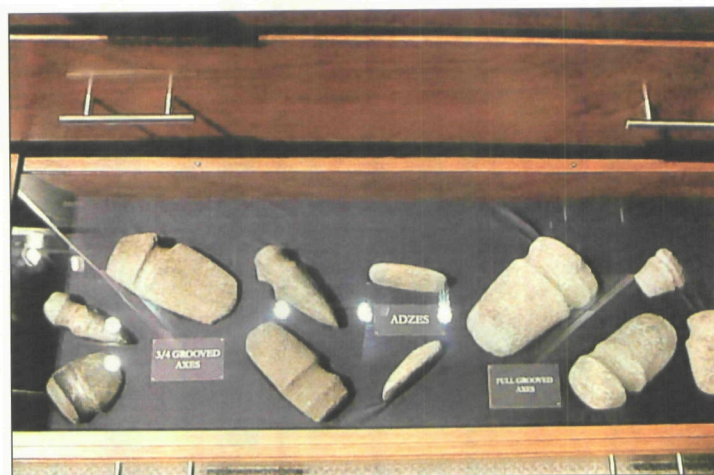


Figure 7 (Morris) - Pull out drawer containing assorted  $\frac{3}{4}$  grooved and full grooved axes, as well as adzes.